

The Calvin Ball Bulletin

January 2016

Welcome!

A Blizzard warning is in effect for Howard County starting tomorrow, **Friday, January 22 at 3pm** until **Sunday, January 24 at 6am**. Snow accumulations of 18-30 inches is possible. If you have not yet prepared, please take time today to do so by purchase the essentials. Unsure what to buy? Click [here](#). During this time, please check on your loved ones, neighbors and elderly. As you weather this storm, this newsletter spotlights upcoming events, programs, helpful tips and ways to stay engaged in the County.

I will be posting updates as they are available to my social media pages and invite you to [Like Me](#) on Facebook and [Follow Me](#) on Twitter.

As always, if you have any questions or feedback on how we build a better Howard County together, I invite you to call my office at **410-313-2001** or [email](#) me.

If you'd like to register to receive my newsletter, [email me](#) with "subscribe" in the subject line. If you would like to be removed, place "unsubscribe" in the subject line.



Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

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Road to Kindergarten

HCPSS will host workshops for parents of incoming kindergarten students. The Road to Kindergarten will help prepare parents for entering their child into the school system and getting them ready for kindergarten. Learn expectations for school readiness; details about the kindergarten program; information on registration; and ways families and children can be supported during the transition.

Thursday, January 21, 2016— Atholton High School, 6520 Freetown Road, Columbia

Tuesday, January 26, 2016— Hammond High School, 8800 Guilford Road, Columbia

Monday, February 1, 2016— Howard High School, 8700 Old Annapolis Road, Ellicott City

Sessions are **6:30-7:30pm** and no registration required. Childcare will be provided at no cost for those ages 2 and older. Please allow at least 15 minutes extra for childcare sign in. Incoming kindergarten students must be five years old by **September 1, 2016**.



Columbia Association Hosts Budget Forum



Columbia Association's Board of Directors will hold a public budget forum on **Thursday, January 21, 2016** at **7:30pm** at Slayton House, 10400 Cross Fox Lane in the Wilde Lake Village Center. CA's forum is to discuss the draft budgets for the next two-year budget cycle, which includes fiscal years 2017 and 2018. All Community stakeholders are encouraged to attend—including residents, representatives of village community associations, advisory committee members and others.

There will be time limits for each speaker. Testimony can also be provided via email to Board.Members@ColumbiaAssociation.org or mail at Columbia Association Accounting Department, 6310 Hillside Court, Suite 100, Columbia, MD 21046. Additional budget work sessions are scheduled through February 2015. The full schedule is available online [here](#).

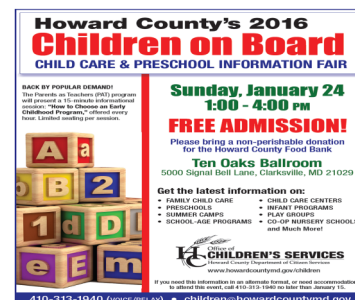
2016 Women's History Month Student Essay Contest

This year's theme for the 2016 Women's History Month essay contest is "Working to Form a More Perfect Union." Essays should honor and recount an individual woman's sacrifices, and commitments and reflect how her contributions inspire today's generations. Essays may describe either a contemporary or historical American women. All Howard County Maryland students in grades 6-12 (public, private and homeschooled) resident in Howard County are eligible. Only an individual may submit an essay; no groups and essays must be no longer than 500 words, double-spaced in 12-pt font.

Entries may be submitted via email to women@howardcountymd.gov (subject line: WHOF Essay Contest) and attached as a MSWord document. They can also be mailed to WHOF Essay Contest, Howard County Commission for Women. The deadline is **Friday, January 22, 2016** and must be received by **5pm**. Gift cards (\$200) will be awarded to first place in each category (grades 6-8 and 9-12). Winners will be invited to read their essays during the Women's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony **Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 7:30pm** in the Banneker Room of the George Howard Building.

Preschool and Child Care Information Fair

Parents, guardians, grandparents and child care personnel—mark your calendars for the 2016 Preschool & Child Care Information Fair "Children On Board" on **January 24, 2016 1-4pm** at **Ten Oaks Ballroom, 5000 Signal Bell Lane** in Clarksville. This annual Fair offers a "one stop shop" for information on child care, pre-school and summer programs, as well as an opportunity for personal contact with teachers and program directors. Representatives from community service organizations that offer programs and services to Howard County's young children will also be on hand to provide information. Go [online](#) for more information, call **410-313-1940** or email children@howardcountymd.gov.



Daddy-Daughter Sweetheart Dance

Dad's (or special adults), escort your princess to a memorable evening of dancing and fun on **January 23, 2016** for a special Daddy-Daughter Sweetheart Dance. There will be a live DJ, light refreshments, crafts, a souvenir photo and ice cream bar. Preregistration is required by calling **410-313-4634**. The dance will be **4-6pm** (5 to 6 year olds) and **7-9pm** (7 to 11 year olds) held at the **Roger Carter Community Center, 3000 Milltowne Drive in Ellicott City**. Cost is **\$40** for one child and adult; each additional daughter is **\$20**. Inclement weather date is **January 30**.

CA Seeks Performing Artists

Columbia Association (CA) is now seeking musical performing artists for their annual Lakefront Wednesday Lunchtime Concert Series. CA has put out a video submission open call and requests all video performances are submitted by **January 23, 2016**. For more information, email Communications@columbiaassociation.org.

World Language Cafe



Columbia Association's World Languages Café began in early 2013 as a way to provide great evenings of conversations and culture in more than a dozen different languages. The café will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the 50+ Center at East Columbia Library, 6600 Cradlerock Way in Owen Brown. Upcoming sessions are 7-9pm on: **January 26, February 23, March 22, April 26, May 24 and June 28**.

Languages include: American Sign Language, Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, English, Farsi, French, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Turkish. Language tables are hosted by native speakers will facilitate conversations. Most people who attend already have some fluency

in the language and can put sentences together; these gatherings are not grammar or vocabulary classes. For more information, email International@ColumbiaAssociation.org or call **410-715-3162**.

CA's 2016 Sister Cities Exchange Program

Next summer, experience a different culture and travel abroad! The Sister Cities Summer High School Exchange Program offers a once-in-a-lifetime international opportunity for Howard County high school students studying Spanish or French where teens can experience what it's like to be a teen in one of Columbia's sister cities in Europe—Tres Cantos, Spain, and Cergy-Pontoise, France. Participants spend approximately two weeks of cultural and linguistic immersion during the month of July in one of those cities.

To learn more about the program, parents and teens are invited to attend CA's upcoming information session on **Tuesday, January 27, 7-8pm** at their **HQ office: 6310 Hillside Court**, Columbia. The program fee is **\$700/Columbia residents** and **\$850/non-Columbia residents**, excluding airline tickets which can range \$1,200-\$1,500/participant. Applicants must have also completed level three of French or Spanish by the end of the current academic year (or have the equivalent language fluency). There are excellent scholarships available for Columbia residents who qualify. For an application or more information, contact **Laura Smit** at **410-715-3162** or email International@ColumbiaAssociation.org.

ECHO Project Seeks Used Musical Instruments

Previously cared for musical instruments can be donated to the school system for use by students who cannot rent or purchase their own at the Solo and Ensemble Fest on **January 30, 2016 9am-4pm** at Mount Hebron HS. Tax receipts are provided. For details or to arrange pick-up, email HCPsm3@gmail.com.

CA 2016 Summer Camp Positions

Columbia Association's (CA) Camps Department will host an open hire event **Saturday, January 30 8:30-11am** at **CA Headquarters, 6310 Hillside Court in Columbia**. Open positions include camp directors, counselors, supervisors, lifeguards, canoe and archery specialists, and more. Applicants must be at least 16 years old by **June 20, 2016**. For more information, please call **410-715-3165** or email Camps@ColumbiaAssociation.org.

Mandatory PreSubmission Information Sessions for NonProfits Seeking CSP Grants

Are you a nonprofit looking to apply for a Community Service Partnership (CSP) Grant with the County in FY17? The Department of Citizen Services is accepting applications through **January 29, 2016**. Funding priority is given to services that meet basic needs and provide opportunities to become self-sufficient. Funds may be used for agency operating expenses, program costs, direct client assistance or one-time expenses that directly serve the community.

Grant application forms are available [online](#). Organizations must be a 501(c)(3) non-profit and serve Howard County residents. For more details, contact **Megan Godfrey Jackson** at **410-313-5996** or email mgodfrey@howardcountymd.gov.

Howard County Winter Restaurant Weeks!

Explore your Culinary Culture during Howard County's Restaurant Weeks! Through **February 1, 2016**, residents and food enthusiasts are invited to explore their taste buds and dine on decadence at participating restaurants. Chefs' specialty menus are prepared at prefixed prices. Menus are priced from **\$15-\$45**. This is a fantastic opportunity to boost our Howard County restaurant business while bringing the community together. Check [online](#) for more details.



County's MIHU Accepting Applications—Apply Today



Looking for affordable housing in Howard County? Howard County Housing will begin accepting applications for the January open enrollment period for the County's Moderate Income Housing Unit (MIHU) program through **January 31**. This program is an inclusionary zoning program that requires developers of new housing in certain zoning districts to sell or rent a percentage of the new dwelling units to households of moderate income and at reduced sale prices and rents to income eligible families.

For more info, contact Howard County Housing's Homeownership Division at **410-313-6318** and select option 4 or visit their MIHU [website](#).

Real Estate Seminar



Finally! A local seminar where you can learn (and avoid) the most common and expensive mistakes Oakland Mills homeowners are making. Are you thinking of selling in the next 6-12 months? Or do you plan to stay for many years to come? Either way you can't afford to miss this seminar. Join in a **FREE** seminar **January 31, 2016 9:30-11:30am** at The Other Barn in Oakland Mills. Receive a current market update, information on short sales, pre-staging/maintenance tips, tax mistakes and ways to reduce stress or feeling overwhelmed. For more information contact **Sandy Cederbaum** at manager@oaklandmills.org or **Jon Toner** at **443-766-1866**.

HCDFRS Now Accepting Applicants to Training Class 29

Our Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services (HCDFRS) will begin accepting applications for Trainee Class 29 on **Monday, February 1, 2016 at 8am**. HCDFRS will accept the first 1500 applicants and inviting those that meet the minimum qualifications to participate in a written examination. To assist with the process of applying, candidates are encouraged to create an account ahead of time through a tracking system. Visit www.governmentjobs.com and create a new account. This will speed up the application process so on the day the posting opens, you can simply apply, answer supplemental questions and submit.



Trainee Class 29

Minimum qualifications include: possession of a valid Motor Vehicle Class C Operator's driver's license issued by the State of residence; possess HS diploma or GED; provide documentation of eligibility to legally work in the United States; and must be eighteen (18) years of age on or before **March 1, 2016**.

Choose Civility Poster and Video Contest



Students are invited to design a poster illustrating the theme of social responsibility. Use your imagination, creativity and artistic talent to show others why it's important to be a good digital citizen. Start by asking yourself: What does it mean to be a good digital citizen? Why is it important? How do you respect yourself and others, decide what to share, and choose which photos to post? What does it mean to think twice, post once? What's your digital footprint?

Visit [Common Sense Media](http://CommonSenseMedia.org) or talk to your technology teacher or medial specialist for some ideas, then design a poster or create a video!

Groups or individual students in K-12 who live or attend school in Howard County are invited to submit entries. Entries are accepted **February 1-March 25, 2016**. There will be awards for the top winners. For details, go [online](#) or call **410-730-0075** or email monica.herber@columbiaassociation.org

Open Enrollment for Affordable Care Act

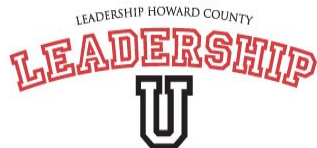
Residents who qualify for health coverage through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) have until **January 31, 2016** to apply or re-enroll. Go [online](#) to create an account or call Maryland's Connection's Consumer Support Center at **1-855-642-8572**. Know your options. Call **410-313-7392** or email ship@howardcountymd.gov.

HIRE POWER Award Nominations Sought

Howard County is now accepting nominations for the third annual HIRE POWER Awards. The goal is to highlight businesses within the county that promote programs and practices to help develop the local workforce through innovative job support, inclusive hiring strategies and community outreach efforts. The deadline is **February 1, 2016** and nomination forms are available [online](#).

This year's winners will be announced at ceremonies held in June 2016. For more information, call **410-313-6400** or email citizen@howardcountymd.gov.

Leadership U 2016 Accepting Applications



Calling all students - Leadership U is open to high school sophomores (or equivalents who are home-schooled) who live in Howard County. Students may attend public or private school, or be home-schooled. Students must have a desire to learn about their community and a willingness to volunteer. LU is a great way to meet new people from different schools who share similar interests in knowing more about their community, and who want to make a positive impact.

Those interested are invited to attend a FREE information session to learn more: **January 25** (Miller Library);, **February 10** (Central Library); and **March 3** (Miller Library). All sessions are 7-8pm. Tuition is \$875; however [financial assistance](#) is available. Application deadline is **March 17, 2016**. For more details, go [online](#).

All-Star Day Open House

It's the [NBA's All-Star](#) weekend and Columbia Association (CA) has something special for our own all-stars—YOU! Everyone (members, guests, the public) is invited to select CA sport and fitness locations all day on **February 13, 2016** for special fitness classes, demonstrations, activities, giveaways and more. Participating locations include: Columbia Athletic Club (5425 Beaverkill Rd, 410-730-6744); Columbia Gym (6151 Daylong Ln, 410-531-0800); Columbia Ice Rink (5876 Thunder Hill Road, 410-730-0321); Columbia Swim Center (10400 Cross Fox Ln, 410-730-7000); Fairways Hill Golf Club (5100 Columbia Rd, 410-730-1112); Haven on the Lake (10275 Little Patuxent Pkwy, 410-715-3020); Hobbit's Glen Golf Club (11130 Willowbottom Dr, 410-730-5980); and Supreme Sports Club (7080 Deepage Dr, 410-381-5355).

Each member is automatically entered into a prize drawing upon check-in. Each guests that visits will be entered to win a 30-day Package Plan Plus Membership. KidsSpace will be free for any non-KidsSpace members at the three fitness clubs **9am-4:30pm**. Reservations must be made for children 18months and younger. Call any participating location for more information.

Board of Education—Cluster Appointments for 2015-2016

Unsure which Board of Education elected official is appointed to your cluster schools? Below is a list of the members and their respective schools. If you have any questions or concerns in these schools, you are invited to contact them directly. For more information, go [online](#).

Christine O'Connor, Chair. Due to her position as Chair, Ms. O'Connor is not assigned any cluster schools.

Ellen Flynn Giles, Vice Chair—Atholton/Oakland Mills

Dr. Bess Altwerger—Glenelg/Wilde Lake

Ann De Lacy—Mount Hebron/River Hill

Sandra French—Hammond/Reservoir

Dr. Janet Siddiqui—Howard/Marriotts Ridge

Cindy Vaillancourt—Centennial/Long Reach

World Food Passport

The World Food Passport program celebrates the wide range of restaurants, cuisine, and culture available in Howard County. After eating at a participating restaurant, diners can request one stamp in their passport. Once passport holders have one stamp in each of the six categories, they can enter a drawing to win a \$25 gift certificate. Drawings will be held on **March 31, 2016**. For more information, [go online](#). Or contact Laura Smit at 410-715-3162 or International@ColumbiaAssociation.org.



Mommy-Son Valentine's Dance



Make this Valentine's Day memorable moms (or special adults) by bringing out your son to the North Laurel Community Center on **February 6, 2016 5:30-7:30pm** for an evening jam-packed with fun, refreshments, live DJ, dancing, games, crafts, a souvenir photo and an ice cream sundae bar. Geared towards boys 3-12 years old, the cost is **\$32** for center members and **\$40** for nonmembers and includes one child and adult. Each additional son is \$16 for center members and \$20 for nonmembers. Preregistration is required. Inclement weather date is **February 20**. For more information or to register, call 410-313-0390.

Howard County GreenFest—Vendors Wanted

Vendor applications are now being accepted for Howard County's annual **GreenFest**, back for its 9th consecutive year on **Saturday, April 16, 2016 10am-4pm** at **Howard Community College's Burrill Galleria, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway** in Columbia. While the theme for 2016 is "Buy Local, Eat Local, Be Local," **GreenFest** is open to all vendors and exhibitors that highlight environmentally conscious products, services, activities and opportunities for community involvement. Apply now to become a vendor and/or a sponsor to showcase your 'green' at this popular event!

Each exhibit space includes a 5' table and two chairs. Cost to non-profits is \$25 per space; cost to other entities, including commercial businesses is \$35 per space. An additional \$10 late fee will be charged to those who apply after **Friday, February 26**. Sponsorship opportunities for \$100 are also available. Vendor and sponsorship application is available on the **GreenFest** website at www.hcgreenfest.org. For more information, contact **Alan Wilcom** at **410-313-6433** or email awilcom@howardcountymd.gov.

Feed The Green Bin Program

According to a recent Howard County study, almost 30% of what we send to the landfill could be composted and turned into a valuable product! Interested households in certain areas (who receive County yard trim collection) can participate in Feed The Green Bin program. This new program collects the same types of material you have always set at the curb, the difference is a separate container! Participants receive a special food scrap/yard trim cart that is emptied weekly. If you're in the collection area and want another green cart, here's the [form](#) to purchase additional carts. Please remember that the green carts are to be used for food scraps and yard trim **ONLY**. To sign-up, click [here](#).



Tips on Keeping Pipes From Freezing

With below freezing temperatures headed toward our region, particularly at night, our Bureau of Utilities is offering residents tips on how to keep pipes from freezing and potentially bursting. Water pipes located on or next to an outside wall are subjected to sub-freezing temperatures, as are pipes located in a garage or any other unheated building. To help combat this problem and reduce the probability of your pipes freezing, the County's Bureau of Utilities recommends:

- Wrap or insulate exposed pipes susceptible to low temperatures.
- Utilize other devices, such as heat tape, to help keep pipes from freezing.
- Leave hot and cold water dripping on nights when temperatures dip below 15°F.

Some pipes, such as those located in cabinets, may be situated against an outside wall, while they may be insulated, residents should leave cabinet doors open to allow heat in the room to keep pipes warm and prevent freezing. The Bureau also suggests:

- Turn off and drain outside hose bibs.
- Know where the main water cutoff valve is and how it works.
- Seal air leaks that allow icy blasts to reach pipes.
- For homes with crawl spaces, close outside air vents located in the foundation wall during extremely cold temperatures to keep exposed plumbing from freezing.
- If you have a programmable thermostat, consider leaving it at a constant temperature, never below 45°F. If you are going on an extended vacation, set your thermostat to at least 45°F or above.

Also, to help keep county fire hydrants from freezing and help prevent street flooding, residents are asked to shovel out fire hydrants in their neighborhood that are covered or obstructed by snow, as well as keeping obstacles, such as snow, away from storm water runoff drains.

If your pipes do freeze, the Bureau recommends opening the cold water faucet nearest the frozen pipe to relieve pressure. Then, use a gentle heat source, such as a light bulb or hair dryer, to thaw the pipe. **DO NOT** use an open flame.

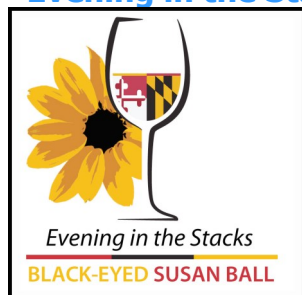
Residents are further reminded if you lose water or experience sewage back-up in your home, call the County first to determine if there is a break in the water main or a blockage in the sewer main beyond your property. During regular business hours, residents are instructed to call the Bureau of Utilities at **410-313-4900**. After hours and on the weekends, call Central Dispatch at **410-313-2929** which will then notify a county utility worker.

Downtown Columbia Eats App

We're serving up a different way of dining which makes going out to dinner an extra treat in Downtown Columbia. [Downtown Columbia Eats!](#) is a loyalty program for participating restaurants and eateries in Downtown Columbia including Petit Louis Bistro, Union Jack's, Seasons 52, Whole Foods, and the Nordstrom Café. The app is powered by Loyaltap and is available to download for FREE via the Apple Store and Google Play. Download today and begin saving.



Evening in the Stacks



Join us for a fun-filled affair as HCLS celebrates all that is Maryland with a BLACK-EYED SUSAN BALL! Enjoy featured Chef and Author Jon Shields "*The Culinary Ambassador of the Chesapeake Bay*," live music by Junkyard Saints, bid on a multitude of silent auction items, sip on signature cocktails by The Wine Bin, and dancing with your friends and neighbors.

Cocktail attire. Black tie is optional. This event will be held **Saturday, February 27, 2016 7-11pm** at the Charles E. Miller Branch & Historical Center, 9421 Frederick Rd in Ellicott City. Tickets are available [online](#) and are \$125 in advance and \$140 after **February 1**. More details on this year's annual Evening in the Stacks are available [online](#).

Man-to-Man Prostate Support Group

Attend the Man-to-Man Prostate Support Group, a forum for men to find support and meet, share, and learn. Meetings are every **3rd Thursday** of the month from September through June, from **6:30 to 8:15pm**. Each meeting will take place at the **Bain Center, 5470 Ruth Keeton Way**, Columbia MD, 21044. For more information, please contact **Gary Scher** by either calling **202-253-1025** or emailing gscher@comcast.net. For accommodations to attend this event, or to request information in an alternate format, contact MD Access Point at **410-313-5980** or at map@howardcountymd.gov.



Medication Disposal Boxes

Did you know you can dispose of your unwanted medication any day of the year at one of our three permanent drop off locations? They're open daily year round! The Howard County Police Department and HC DrugFree have provided the community with three permanent medication disposal boxes in an effort to assist residents in disposing of unwanted or expired prescription and over-the-counter medications safely and anonymously. Boxes are maintained by the police and located at the Northern District Station (3410 Court House Drive in Ellicott City), Southern District Station (11226 Scaggsville Road in Laurel) and Gary Arthur Community Center (2400 Route 97 in Cooksville). District boxes are available 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. The box at the Gary Arthur Community Center is available when the center is open to the public: Monday-Saturday 7am-pm; Sunday 9am-6pm and closed on holidays.

"Guaranteed Ride Home"



A program that gives a **FREE** ride home to commuters who travel to work via mass transit, car-pooling or walking at least twice a week is coming to Howard County.

"Guaranteed Ride Home" offers regular commuters a free ride home in a taxi or rental car up to four times a year and is funded by the MD Department of Transportation. To be eligible to participate in the "Guaranteed Ride Home" program, commuters must register [online](#) or call **1-800-745-RIDE (7433)**.

FREE HCPD & HC DrugFree Magnets

HC DrugFree is proud to partner with the Howard County Police Department and the Howard County Health Department to keep important phone numbers on your refrigerator or file cabinet. Email admin@hcdrugfree.org or call 443-325-0040 to request your magnet today! [Click here](#) to read the magnet.



Exciting Youth Opportunities to Stay Active and Involved

One of my missions is to provide awareness of programs within Howard County that provide a positive outlet for our youth. This allows them to channel their inner talent and participate in positive activities. Listed below, you will find helpful links for parents and youth. I encourage you to share this information with friends, families, neighbors, and most importantly, your children.

- **4H Program:** For Ages 8-18; Clover 4-H for youth ages 5-7. Meetings held across County. To find a club, click [here](#) or call 410-313-1906.
- **Art Attack:** Creative after-school enrichment at **Columbia Art Center**. Meets **1st & 2nd Mondays**. Registration/fees may apply. Call 410-992-3726.
- **Youth & Teen Center (YTC):** A Multi-purpose place for teens to socialize & participate in recreational & educational programs. 410-992-3726
- **CA's Teen and Middle School Advisory Committee :** Meets **3rd Thursdays, 6:30-8pm**, The Youth & Teen Center, **The Other Barn**. Call 410-992-3726 or email CATeens@ColumbiaAssociation.org for more info.
- **Howard County Library .** Many [classes and events](#) for youth of all ages.
 - Homework Club.** Come after school for a snack while working on homework in a relaxed setting. M-Th 3-4pm (school days only). Ages 11-17. No registration required. East Columbia Branch location.
 - Math Lab.** Struggling with Math? Bring your problems in and get help including all levels of math up to calculus. No problems? Don't worry, there are various math games and puzzles you can solve that require logic and critical thinking. Registration is required. Ages 11-18. Register [online](#) or call 410-313-0760.
- **Voices For Change:** Email **Meg Mekelburg** for more info MMekelburg7@verizon.net

Recreation & Parks Deer Management Program for 2015-2016

Howard County's Department of Recreation & Parks announced its schedule of managed deer hunts for **2015-2016**. These hunts are held in an effort to help maintain a stable, balanced white-tailed deer population in our parks where deer browsing has been shown to reduce biodiversity. The hunting schedule is as follows but can also be accessed [online](#). For more details, call **410-313-1675**.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| • Blandair Park (north of Route 175 only ; Bow Hunting) | February 18 |
| • Carrs Mill and Zirn Property (Sharpshooting) | March 15 and 17 |
| • Centennial Park (Sharpshooting) | March 1 and 3 |
| • David Force Park (Bow & Shotgun) | February 4 |
| • Fulton South Park (Sharpshooting) | March 10 |
| • Gray Rock Farms Open Space (Sharpshooting) | January 26 |
| • High Ridge Park (Shotgun Hunting) | January 28; February 11 |
| • Middle Patuxent Environmental Area (Bow & Shotgun) | February 9 & 25 |
| • Mount Hebron Open Space (Sharpshooting) | January 26 |
| • River's Edge Open Space (Sharpshooting) | March 10 |
| • Robinson Nature Center (Sharpshooting) | March 8 |
| • Savage Park (Sharpshooting) | March 8 and 10 |
| • Schooley Mill Park (Shotgun Hunting) | February 16 |
| • West Friendship Park (Bow & Shotgun) | February 2 and 23 |
| • Worthington Park (Sharpshooting) | March 1 and 3 |

Financial Assistance Corner

While we continue to move towards an economic recovery, many residents are faced with the reality of living on either a limited or fixed income. Others are looking for ways to take advantage of tax credits so they can free up funds they can use for often the basics in life including housing, utilities, and food for their children and themselves. They may use that capital to invest in their future, or their children's future education. No matter the reason, the County offers several tax credits for you to take advantage of for varying circumstances. Please check below or visit our [Department of Finance's](#) website for a more complete [list](#).

TAX CREDITS: For your convenience, below are several tax credits many residents have benefited from. Please share this information with your friends, family and neighbors so we can educate our community together about the tax credits that may be available to them, if they qualify.

Livable Home Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Senior Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1492>

Homeowners Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1558>

Homestead Tax Credit: <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/homestead.html>

Energy Conservation Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442455147>

Daycare Provider Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Amateur Sports Athletic Fields Property Tax Credit:
<http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Surviving Spouse of Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker:
<http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Renovation of Historic Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Trash Collection Fee Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Free Financial Coaching!

MyBudgetCoach was launched by MakingChange in partnership with [Maryland CASH Campaign](#) and helps working families & individuals improve their ability to budget and make well-informed financial decisions. Understanding the importance of budgeting is generally recognized as the first step in successful financial planning. Participants meet with a trained volunteer coach once a month for 12 monthly sessions. Budgeting techniques, financial management and goal attainment strategies are included. Participants and coaches use on-line tools to track progress in real-time.

If interested in participating, please contact the MyBudgetCoach Relationship Manager, **Leslie Petak**, at petakl@makingchangecenter.org. MakingChange provides group seminars and personal coaching to teach people to manage their money and change their lives. Its programs are offered in schools, human service agencies and businesses. For more information, visit www.makingchangecenter.org.

In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency that empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter & outreach services. They provide programs & services including 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter & Day Resource Center.

The Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at **6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044**. For more information, please call **410-531-6006** or visit the Grassroots website [online](#) at The 24-hour line is **410-531-6677** and the MD Crisis Hotline is **1-800-422-0009**.



Howard County Safety—Helpful Hints!



- Experiencing an Emergency? Dial 9-1-1
- Want to report an incident, non-emergency? Call 410-313-2200
- Need to report drug activity? Call 410-290-3784
- Want to make an anonymous tip? (e.g. child abuse, violence, gangs, gambling, school incidents, underage drinking, damage to property etc.) Call 410-313-7867 or email GangTips@howardcountymd.gov
- Want to report gun crimes? Call 410-313-7867 or email CToler@howardcountymd.gov.
- Do you need Victim Assistance? Call 410-313-3712 or email KMasterson@howardcountymd.gov
- Interested in a FREE Home Security Survey? Call 410-313-4795 and leave a message to make an appointment.
- Looking to prevent Auto Theft? Helpful tips are available [online](#).
- Want to report an animal cruelty incidence or report unwanted pets, endangered animals, etc.? Call 410-313-2780, email animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/animalcontrol.htm>
- Interested in a Police Ride-Along? Call 410-313-2208 for an application
- Need a HCPD Spanish line? Call 410-313-7807.
- Interested in volunteering with the HCPD? Call 410-313-2255
- Interesting in HCPD Recruitment? Call 410-313-4273.
- Want to start a Neighborhood Watch Program? Contact your [local community resources officer](#).

Give the Gift of Independence!

YOU can give seniors the gift of independence by volunteering as a Neighbor Ride driver. Flexible and rewarding daytime, as well as evening and weekend opportunities are available. No set schedule is required. Drivers may simply choose to provide rides that are convenient to their homes, offices, and

daily routines. Parent volunteers are welcome and we encourage you to bring your children along for a wonderful experience.



For more information, contact Patrice Cerwonka, Colleen Konstanzer, or Rosemary Noble at 410-884-RIDE (7433) or email volunteer@neighborride.org.

Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents +62!

The HC Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents ages 62 and older who are considering this as an option. The counseling is targeted to seniors who may be able to pay for their everyday expenses but are struggling to cover the costs of health care, home repairs and modifications, increased property taxes and other unexpected expenses.

To schedule a counseling session or learn more about the costs and features of a reverse mortgage, call MAP of Howard County's toll-free number: 1-800-506-5806.

Alzheimer's Support Group

Howard County proudly offers several Alzheimer's Support Groups at various locations throughout the County during days and times that are geared at accommodating the needs of those impacted by Alzheimer's. Pre-screening is required. For more information on support group locations in Howard County, click [here](#). For more information on the Alzheimer's Association, call 1-800-272-3900 or go [online](#).

Recycling...Do's and Don'ts!

Ever wondered what is considered recyclable and what is not? You may be surprised to find out. For a complete list, click [here](#) or call **410-313-6444**. If it snows on your recycling day and recycling has been cancelled for the day, recyclables may be picked up

DID YOU KNOW?

The Loan Closet of HoCo is a great resource for borrowing medical equipment for temporary use. There are no income restrictions. To ask about the Loan Closet, please call **410-740-1643 10am-noon, Monday, Wednesday, or Friday**. For more info, [go online](#).

Transparency in Our Government!

If you believe there has been an instance of fraud, waste, and/or abuse in our government, we want to hear from you! Allegations of Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Howard County Government should be submitted to the Howard County Auditor's Office. All submittals are encrypted and password protected for security. We treat all allegations in a confidential matter and we'll do our very best to safeguard your identity!

To report an allegation, [visit our website](#). If you do not wish to disclose your identity, you may remain anonymous; however, you should be aware that remaining anonymous may preclude a thorough investigation of your allegation due to insufficient information.

For more information, please email hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov or call **410-313-2005**.

"Changing the world is up to us. If each of us tries, the next generation may see a happier, more peaceful world emerge."
~ **Dalai Lama**

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